

ABOUT OUR CAMP DIRECTOR

Safety Village Director: **Amber Michon**



Director Bio:

Hello! My name is Amber Michon and I am the new Director of Safety Village! The past four summers I have worked as a counselor at Safety Village and am excited to take this next step. I also work at the Hampshire Regional YMCA as a child care provider, and I am beginning to volunteer at Baystate. I have an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts, and I am now working toward my Bachelor's degree. During the academic year, I study Therapeutic Recreation and Child Life with a minor in psychology at Springfield College. It is my hope to someday become a Child Life Specialist, where I will help provide developmentally appropriate activities and coping strategies for children who are in the hospital. In my spare time, I love to go to the beach, relax, and spend time with my dog, Ari. I enjoy traveling anywhere and seeing as many new places as possible.

Questions for the Director:

What are you looking forward to as the new Safety Village Director?

There are so many things that I am looking forward to as the new Director of Safety Village. Overall, I am excited to have such a huge part in the planning and implementation of this program. I really believe in all that we do at Safety Village for the kids, whether it be the lasting friendships that will be made or learning important safety concerns and procedures that could really save lives. I am hoping that I can bring new games and crafts to the camp, and maybe even a new speaker or two. It is an amazing opportunity to get to do the planning for this Camp. I am really excited to be able to be the Director of this program.

What do you enjoy most about working with children?

The thing I enjoy most about working with youth is their imagination. Kids will tell the best stories and you can talk to their parent about it later and they will have no idea where it came from. You are also able to do so many different things with kids as they are able to make it their own. We can pretend we are at the circus or the zoo and the kids will really feel like they're there. It is just amazing to hear and watch what their imagination brings to life and to be a part of that magic.

What is your favorite thing about camp?

My favorite thing about camp is watching the children grow and make friendships throughout each session. Each session is only two weeks long, but you really see kids coming out of their shells during this time. It is very cool to see children come back year after year, and then have their younger siblings come too. You get to make connections with them and their families. I also love that the children are able to learn from all of the visitors we have come in, such as the fire department, or hospital. They are learning important information that may be hard for a parent to just bring up, in a way that is fun and enjoyable for them. The employees at Safety Village are a huge part of what makes the children's summer great, and it is a privilege to be part of that.

**We look forward to seeing you soon!
Enjoy your summer!!**